

**OCTOBER 22, 2007**

**NOTICE**

The recessed meeting of October 18, 2007 of the **Environmental Control Committee** of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County will reconvene on **Friday, October 26, 2007** at the hour of **9:50 A.M.** in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois to consider the following:

289094 COOK COUNTY BOTTLE WATER BAN (PROPOSED RESOLUTION). Submitting a Proposed Resolution sponsored by Mike Quigley; Co-sponsored by Forrest Claypool, Roberto Maldonado, Larry Suffredin, John P. Daley, ~~and~~ Gregg Goslin and Anthony J. Peraica, County Commissioners.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED**

**COOK COUNTY BOTTLE WATER BAN**

**WHEREAS**, Cook County spends over \$400,000 annually on the purchase of bottled water for County employees; and

**WHEREAS**, bottled water costs up to 10,000 times more per gallon than tap water; and

**WHEREAS**, bottled water is often not of high water quality; and

**WHEREAS**, and in a study conducted by the National Resources Defense Council one third of bottled water tested contained significant contamination; and

**WHEREAS**, 60-70 percent of bottled water is not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and

**WHEREAS**, for the 30-40 percent it does regulate, the FDA only requires companies to test a sample of water once per week; and

**WHEREAS**, the EPA requires testing of municipal water systems between 300-480 times per month; and

**WHEREAS**, supplying the plastic for the water bottles consumed by Americans required more than 47 million gallons of oil annually, equivalent to the release of one billion pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS**, the transportation and shipment of bottled water burns massive quantities of fossil fuel; and

**WHEREAS**, 86 percent of plastic water bottles used in the U.S. end up in landfills, where they will take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade; and

**WHEREAS**, the incineration of the plastic bottles releases toxic byproducts such as chlorine gas and ash laden with heavy metals into the air; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 28 percent of U.S. children ages 2 to 5 have at least one cavity; and

**WHEREAS**, the increased use of non-fluoridated bottled water contributes to tooth decay, cavities, and periodontal disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the cities of Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Santa Barbara have banned the city-financed purchase of plastic water bottles and the sale of plastic water bottles on municipal property; and

**WHEREAS**, the cities of Oklahoma City, Charlottesville (VA), and New York are considering bans; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution calling for a study on the impact of plastic water bottles on municipal waste systems, citing the increased plastic waste created by the bottles, the fossil fuels used to produce and transport them and the billions spent by city governments on water each year; and

**WHEREAS**, methods exist to provide purified water to County employees through means that minimize harm to the environment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners that no County department or agency shall purchase single serving bottles of water using County funds, unless an employee contract specifies usage or unless needed for public health purposes, and that this prohibition will apply to ~~County contractors and~~ County funded and/or sponsored events; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Purchasing Agent and the Bureau of Administration ~~Department of Maintenance~~ shall, within 90 days of passage, work with all County departments to conduct a water audit to assess their current water usage, availability of fresh tap water, and the feasibility and cost of installing water purification systems; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such audit shall determine the viability of switching all bottled water dispensers to bottle-less water dispensers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such audit shall also determine the viability of turning on all currently disconnected drinking water fountains; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that no County department or agency shall purchase bottled water dispensers or bottled water refills beginning ~~December 1, 2007~~ February 1, 2008, and the County shall install bottle-less water dispensers where appropriate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that no County department or agency shall enter into a bottled water contract that extends beyond February 1, 2008.

\*     **Referred to the Committee on Environmental Control on September 6, 2007.**

\*\*    **Approved and adopted as amended at the October 18, 2007 meeting of the Committee on Environmental Control, which was recessed to the call of the Chair.**

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Matthew B. DeLeon, Secretary

Chairman:           Quigley  
Vice-Chairman:   Silvestri  
Members:          Beavers, Gorman, Moreno, Peraica, Steele